

Court of the Virgin Islands, now known as the Superior Court, and served until April 1993.

Judge Alphonso Christian has served the Territory as a businessman, teacher, Attorney, Commissioner, Jurist, community activist and philanthropist. Judge Christian started his own business by opening and teaching at his own Commercial School, which he began in his living room and later transferred to his law office.

He was also the Commissioner of Public Safety at the time when that Department also included the Fire Service and the Prison System. His extensive community involvement also included being a Charter Member of the Lions Club, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Carnival Committee for several years, serving on various community Boards, and using his legal experience and business acumen to help the Catholic Church in many areas. While serving in these many capacities, Christian also taught legal assistants at the University of the Virgin Islands.

A man of many talents and blessed with wisdom, knowledge and persistence, Alphonso Christian will be long remembered and praised for his work in all areas in which he served his beloved home, but I am certain that he counts among his greatest contributions, as do we, those which have been made and will continue to be made through his children and grandchildren.

Judge Alphonso and my father Judge Almeric Christian who preceded him in death by several years were respected colleagues and good friends. On behalf of my family, staff, and the Members of the 109th Congress of the United States of America, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Ruth Christian, their children, Rubina, Delano, Alicia, including my dear friends Attorney Alphonso, Jr., and Dr. Cora Christian, grandchildren, sister Ann Abramson, family and friends.

May God comfort and bless you during this time of loss and may you find peace and acceptance in knowing that Judge Christian left an admirable record of achievement and a stellar example for those of us to emulate when we want to reach for the stars and the world tells us we have nothing to stand on.

His faith, persistence and hard work overcame great obstacles, and now he rests in God's eternal peace.

# INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED STATES

## HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, together with 29 of my colleagues, a concurrent resolution to formally recognize the 2006 centennial of sustained Filipino immigration to the United States, acknowledge the many achievements of our Filipino-American community, and reflect on the productive and enduring relationship between the United States and the Philippines over the past century.

The Filipino-American experience and the evolving yet always close relationship between the Philippines and the United States began in earnest in 1906, when fifteen Filipino contract laborers arrived in the then-Territory of Hawaii to work on the islands' sugar plantations. This marked the start of an emigration from the Philippines to the United States which, during the subsequent century, has numbered upwards of 60,000 a year, making Filipinos our second-largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The year 1906 was also when the first class of two hundred "pensionados" arrived from the Philippines to obtain a United States education with the intent of returning to the Philippines. Many, however, stayed to become American citizens, forming, with the "sakadas" who emigrated to my Hawaii, the foundation of today's Filipino-American community.

The story of America's Filipino-American community is little known and rarely told. Yet it is the quintessential immigrant story of early struggle, pain, sacrifice, and broken dreams, leading eventually to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in American society.

Today, 2.4 million Americans of Filipino ancestry live throughout our Nation, including the

two top states: California, where 1.1 million reside, and Hawaii, my home state, where some 275,000 live (140,000 in my Second Congressional District alone, making it home to the largest number of Filipino Americans of any congressional district).

Members of this community have made great contributions to America, and have achieved success and distinction in, among other things, labor, business, politics, media and the arts, medicine, and the armed forces. Filipino Americans have also served with distinction in the armed forces of the United States throughout the long U.S.-Philippines relationship, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

Many Filipino Americans retained their mother country's proud cultural traditions, which continue to enrich the diverse tapestry of today's American experience. Many have also maintained close ties to family and friends in the Philippines, and therefore played an indispensable role in maintaining the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Philippines relationship.

That relationship has evolved over the past century from the 1898–1946 period of U.S. governance, during which the then-Commonwealth of the Philippines was represented in the U.S. Congress by thirteen resident commissioners, to the post-independence period beginning in 1946, when the Philippines took its place among the community of nations and became one of this country's most reliable allies in the international arena.

In 2006, our Filipino-American community will join all Americans in pausing to recognize a century of achievement in the United States through a series of nationwide celebrations and memorials marking the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines. This centennial will provide every American of whatever ethnic heritage an opportunity to not only celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States, but to celebrate, appreciate, and honor the struggles and triumphs common to the immigrant experience, which, of course, is also the American experience.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## SEPTEMBER 7

Time to be announced  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine NASA passenger aircraft.

SD-562

## SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

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